## **NEWS**

## FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ FIFTH DISTRICT

MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Los Angeles City Council to Name September 19, 2017 Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day in the City of Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz, along with Councilwoman Nury Martinez and Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez will introduce a resolution that will recognize September 19, 2017 officially as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day in the City of Los Angeles. September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the United States.

Ovarian Cancer is one of the deadliest gynecologic cancers. More than 22,000 women are diagnosed each year with a 50 percent mortality rate. And for those who fight it successfully, there is still a 50 percent chance of recurrence. Ovarian Cancer can happen to any woman of any age. Women should know that annual pap tests do not detect ovarian cancer. In fact, there is no early detection test for the disease other than a CA125 (that measures for the cancer antigen 125 protein) which is not always accurate. Therefore, ovarian cancer usually gets diagnosed in the later stages of the disease which is partly why it has a high mortality rate. Women who are concerned that they might have symptoms should talk to their doctor about a transvaginal ultrasound exam, although insurance companies may not cover the procedure.

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles City Council will recognize Paulinda Babbini, president and founder of The Ovarian Cancer Circle/Inspired by Robin Babbini (<a href="www.theovariancancercircle.org">www.theovariancancercircle.org</a>), the non-profit organization that she started in 2010 in memory of her daughter who lost her battle with ovarian cancer at the age of twenty. Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh, a professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA and the director of the G.O. Discovery Laboratory will also be honored. She is a leading-edge scientist and ovarian cancer surgeon who has treated countless women with this disease. She can explain how important funding is to continue her life-saving research and what types of new and innovative therapies her team is investigating, in hopes of one day finding a cure. UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC) will also be recognized for its commitment to cancer research. The JCCC handles more than 20,000 patient visits per year and conducts hundreds of clinical trials to provide the latest in experimental cancer treatments.

**WHO:** Paul Koretz, Councilmember, 5th District Nury Martinez, Councilwoman, 6th District

Monica Rodriguez, Councilwoman, 7th District

Paulinda Babbini, president and founder, The Ovarian Cancer Circle/Inspired By Robin Babbini

Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh, UCLA professor in the department of obstetrics & gynecology; Director of the

G.O. Discovery Laboratory

UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

WHEN: Tuesday, September 19. 10 a.m.

WHERE: Los Angeles City Council, City Council Chambers (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)